

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A system of the type including multiple functions relating to production, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), maintenance and automation, configured to provide device for the provision of access to data from a plurality of data devices in various data sources within the system, wherein the data are data of the data devices including an automation device, and/or data of an ERP device, and/or data of an MES device, and/or other production-relevant data of another data source, wherein the system comprising:

a central access device having interface connections to receive data from each of the data devices, wherein the central access device comprises mechanisms for providing a uniform, central access to all data sources and for uniform visualization of the data in the data sources, the central access device including a restricted access administration device providing role-based access for each of multiple users so that each user is enabled to access data from predetermined devices without being able to access data of other devices, the central access device further including a visualization device having a plurality of portal modules enabling data fetched from different devices to be viewed simultaneously in a visualization window.

10-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the central access device includes mechanisms comprise a data acquisition device for assembling data from the plurality of data devices in accord with the role-based access of each user various data sources in a role-based manner.

18-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data acquisition device accesses the various data ~~devices~~sources in a manner controlled by an the restricted access administration device, ~~and acquires data therefrom and these data sources, wherein the data acquisition device provides this data for display in the~~to a visualization windowdevice.

24. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the data acquisition device accesses the various data sources in a manner controlled by the access administration device and acquires data from the data sources, wherein the data acquisition device makes the data available to the visualization device.

25. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a polling device configurable by users in order to acquire data cyclically from the various data sources and to evaluate the data in such a way that upon attainment of a criterion configurable by users a corresponding message is automatically generated.

26. (canceled)